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center of the colony. It would seem, therefore, that the pigment formation is the result of catabolic processes in the older parts of the mycelium. A general survey of the paper shows that substances which are favorable to growth, as carbohydrates, also favor the production of pigment; while substances like polyatomic alcohols, which are poor nutrients, result in little color production. It does not seem that the absence or presence of color in these cases can be attributed to any specific action of the compounds, but is rather associated with the general growth of the fungus. The same may be said of the experiments in which pigment production was depressed by withholding necessary mineral nutrients or by high osmotic pressure. A more interesting relation is shown when nitrogen is offered in the form of inorganic salts or as asparagin and peptone. All these substances in the presence of sugar and mineral nutrients favored the production of pigment, but if magnesium sulfate and monopotassium phosphate were withdrawn, color was produced only in the presence of the organic nitrogen compounds. Moreover, in this case abundant pigments were produced in asparagin cultures which gave poor growth. A striking effect on the permeability of the protoplasm was noted when phosphates were absent from the nutrient solutions. In all such cultures the pigment diffused into the culture medium, while in all other cases it remained in the cells.—H. HASSELBRING.

Agricultural experiment station in Palestine.—What is called an American institute of research has been established in Palestine, supported by American capital furnished by several philanthropic Jews. Details of the organization and purpose of this experiment station have been published by FAIRCHILD.²³ It is to be located at the foot of Mt. Carmel, seven miles from Haifa, and will be under the directorship of Mr. AARON AARONSOHN. The director is well known among botanists through his discovery of the long-sought wild prototype of wheat, his personal acquaintanceship having been extended by a recent visit to this country, when he was impressed by the remarkably close agricultural resemblance between California and Palestine. His discoveries of drought-resistant plants, and especially the possibility of using his wild wheat in the more arid regions of the United States, have led to an invitation to prepare a bulletin for the U.S. Bureau of Plant Industry.

The special purpose of the station is to develop rational agriculture in Palestine, but the director has in mind also a wider application of his results, and will issue annual reports in English of the work of the station. It seems that the study of plant pathology is unknown in Palestine, and as a nucleus for such work the collection of the late PROFESSOR W. A. KELLERMAN has been purchased, which the Department of Agriculture has materially supplemented.

The whole movement is one of great interest and promise, not only to Palestine, but to our own country as well.—J. M. C.

²³ FAIRCHILD, DAVID, An American research institution in Palestine; the Jewish agricultural experiment station at Haifa. *Science* N.S. 31:376, 377. 1910.